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Commons, John R. *Trade Unionism and Labor Problems.* Pp. xiv, 628.

Boston: Ginn & Co., 1905.

This book is the second of a series of works consisting of selections on economic subjects, and is essentially a compilation of various articles and papers dealing with labor problems. These are selected largely from economic and trade journals, and each one is intended to illustrate one or more phases of the subject. The book comprises twenty-eight chapters and thus permits an extensive discussion of this many sided and intricate problem. The editor has with judgment and discrimination endeavored to collaborate the best of recent literature available for his purpose. Rapidly changing conditions necessitate this: hence but a single paper antedates the year 1900. The plan of arrangement of the book is apparently somewhat obscure. Nevertheless we are fortunate in possessing such a compilation of the thought and painstaking work of many thorough investigators.

The book is another attempt to apply the "case method" to the study of economic problems. Intended as a text, it is not designed, however, for use as an elementary work but rather in connection with a lecture course, to which it is certainly better adapted.

A large portion of the material of the book is descriptive in character and, therefore, enables the reader to secure a good understanding of the actual conditions existing, and of the methods in vogue, in the different industries described which typify the labor movement. This impressive view of a cross section of the current of labor history is gained indeed at the partial expense of the view both up and down the stream.

The editor's introduction is very valuable, being a short but careful analysis of the book. He points out its salient features and by adding numerous foot notes enables the reader more readily and effectually to trace principles discussed in different chapters of the book. The several chapters contributed by the editor are strong portrayals of labor conditions and of the methods and policies of labor unions. Special mention should be made of the discussion of trade agreements and the illuminating facts in regard to the relation of the various foreign elements to American industry and to the associated labor problems.

Two articles of more than ordinary importance are those discussing the negro artisan and the printer's health. The significance of the negro as a factor in the realm of labor has hitherto received but scant attention in a general discussion of labor problems. Omitting him, however, no such discussion can be complete. The health of the laborer, whatever be the nature of his employment, is a matter of serious interest. Both our individual and social welfare are involved. Americans have been insufficiently disturbed over this problem, and a chapter discussing the health of the employee will, it is hoped, produce a wholesome effect by encouraging a study of this subject.

Important features of the labor problem, such as: the sweating system, employment of women, hours of labor, and systems of benefit and insurance, are well treated, but the question of child labor might have been afforded additional space. Labor legislation and the attitude of the courts toward

certain questions involving the conditions of labor are given appropriate attention.

A book consisting wholly of selected papers can with difficulty cover the entire field of a subject adequately, without becoming somewhat bulky. This difficulty the editor has largely overcome. Still it is to be regretted both for the benefit of the student and the lay reader that such subjects as wages, unemployment, standard of life, and the relation of immigration to the general conditions of American labor did not receive more specific attention. The book, however, is invaluable to the student; it places in accessible form a mass of most important material, and heartily commends itself to the reader.

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G. B. MANGOLD.

Literature on the Railway Rate Question.

Haines, Henry S. *Restrictive Railway Legislation.* Pp. 355. Price, \$1.25. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1905.

Noyes, Walter C. *American Railroad Rates.* Pp. 277. Price, \$1.50. Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1905.

Meyer, Hugo R. *Government Regulation of Railway Rates.* Pp. xxvii, 486. Price, \$1.50 net. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1905.

Ripley, William Z. *The Trunk Line Rate System: A Distance Tariff.* Pp. 28. Price 75 cents. Boston: The Quarterly Journal of Economics, February, 1906.

McLean, S. J. *The English Railway and Canal Commission of 1888.* Pp. 58. Price 75 cents. Boston: The Quarterly Journal of Economics, November, 1905.

The earnest effort that is being made by the American people and by Congress to solve the problem of governmental regulation of railway transportation has resulted in the production of several books and papers by technical and academic writers. This review is concerned with three books and two papers whose importance demands more than a passing notice.

Mr. Henry S. Haines, the author of the volume entitled "Restrictive Railway Legislation," is an engineer and railway manager of high standing. For a number of years Mr. Haines was vice-president and general manager of the Plant System of railroad and steamship lines. For a while Mr. Haines was commercial manager of the Southern States Freight Association and for some time he was president of the American Railway Association, for the development of which organization, he, more than anybody else, is entitled to credit. The volume on American Railway Management, published a few years since, contained a number of valuable and influential papers. The past record of Mr. Haines gives him a high rank among writers on railway transportation.

The present volume contains twelve lectures delivered in April and May, 1905, before the Boston University School of Law. The fact that the